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02-18-04P02.13 RCVD

February 9, 2004

FDA Commissioner Mark McClellan
FDA, Parklawn Bldg.
5600 Fishers Ln.
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Approve OTC Status for Emergency Contraception

Dear FDA Commissioner McClellan:

I support emergency contraception over-the-counter without restrictions. The current prescription requirement harms women by imposing unnecessary burdens to access emergency contraception, which is most effective when taken within 24 hours of unprotected intercourse, birth control failure, or sexual assault. Emergency contraceptive pills are safe and effective and have the potential to cut in half the number of unintended pregnancies in the US and prevent as many as 800,000 abortions each year. Emergency contraceptive pills meet all the FDA's requirements for over-the-counter use. Do not make this a political decision or bow to political pressure this is a medical decision.

Do the right thing; make emergency contraception available over the counter.

Sincerely, *Stephanie COMAR*

University of Montana Women's Resource Center

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